



Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 26 • Issue 8 April 2025

Board and Committee Members 2024– 2025

Chair: Janice O’Gara

Co-Chair: Doris Furness

Treasurer: Julia Blanchard

Co-Treasurer: Joanne
Cummings

Secretary: Deborah White

Charity: Shirley McLeod

Facilities: Pat McCollem

Membership/Hospitality:
Phyllis Barry

Newsletter Editors:
Taryen Shannon, Wendy Foley

Web & Social Media: Sarah
Norris

Programming Coordinators:
Wendy Moore, Wendy Foley

Principal Officer: Wendy Moore

Guild Website:
<http://www.thimblesandfriendsquiltguild.org>

Newsletter Note: Click on any
picture or the blue hyperlinks to see
the Web page sources.

We would love to hear from you!

All guild members are invited to submit articles for this newsletter. Please write your own articles and e-mail them to us no later than the 20th of the month to allow us time to process each article before distribution by the 25th. If there is no newsletter any month, we will save your article for a future publication.

- *Taryen & Wendy F.*

2024-2025 Meeting Dates

The Guild meeting dates have been confirmed for 2024 at The Abington Public Library. Meetings are scheduled from 10:15 AM to 2:00PM:

April 5, 2025	Susan McDonald trunk show
May 3, 2025	Annual Tea Party



From the Chair

What a great class we had at our March gathering. Janet Elia had some of her beautiful quilts for showing off different ways to enhance the bindings. Some had extremely intricate bindings to others that can be created in minutes to showcase your quilts.

The learning packets came with detailed instruction and mini quilts to use while learning. I believe that any time sitting in front of your sewing machine learning something even if you plan on never using the technique allows you to think out of the box.

We also had our normal laughs and giggles, it wouldn't be TnF without that.

- *Janice*



Reminder that May is our last meeting before summer break, but also voting along with a great party hosted by Beverly, Mary Ann, Rhonda and Suzanne. Thank you, ladies, for stepping up to do this.

Programming

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of another Thimbles and Friends year.

If you worked on your bingo card, they are due at April's meeting. There will be 2 drawings with prizes to be awarded

Susan McDonald will be doing a trunk show of all her quilts and crafty items. Her quilt is in the Paducah AQS show in April.

Do not forget your show and tell items. Don't forget your rope bowls. It has also been requested for those who attended the workshop last month to please bring in what was worked on.

- *Wendy M. and Wendy F.*

Membership

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We have only two more meetings until the end of the year. As stated in the Guild Policies, Membership dues for the next year **must be paid by the May 31st deadline**. We have reached a total of 40 members, which is our limit. With a waiting list and requests by potential new members, we can no longer accept payment of dues after the May 31st deadline. Please bring your \$35 check payable to Thimbles and Friends Quilt Guild no later than the May 3rd meeting. If you are unable to attend either the April 5th or May 3rd meeting, you may mail your check to Julia Blanchard, our Treasurer, 27 Bridle Rd., Bridgewater, MA 02324 or Phyllis Barry 796 South Ave., Whitman, MA 02382.

HOSPITALITY

Please send me an email (or text me at 617-833-9176) if you or you know of another member who is ill, planning surgery or has had a family member pass away. I will send out a card from the Guild and notify other members of any information you pass on to me.

Thank you.

- *Phyllis Barry*

Pbarry1022@comcast.net

2025-2026 meeting schedule

Sept 20	Jan 31
Oct 4	Feb quilt retreat
Nov 1	March 7
Dec 6	April 4
Jan 3	May 2
March 7	

Our meeting in September is always later in the month as the school system plans a special event for the students just after school starts. The school system always has first choice.

- *Pat McCollem*

Election time

During the May meeting we will hold our annual voting, it will not interfere with our year end party that Suzanne, Beverly, Mary Ann and Ronda graciously signed up to host.

Signup ballots will be available during the April meeting. This is a great opportunity for the guild's membership to help out with Thimbles and Friends. Each position comes with help and encouragement if you've never been on the board.

Below is a list of positions;

*Principal Officer - Wendy Moore ongoing. Anyone that is interested must provide social security number to the IRS and full correspondence for filing. Wendy is willing to stay in this position.

*Chairperson - will be filled by Doris as Janice steps down.

***Co-chair open** - holds for two years then moves to Chair.

*Treasurer - will be filled by Joanne as Julia steps down.

***Assistant Treasurer - open** holds for two years then moves to Treasurer.

*Secretary: held by Debbie White, will keep it unless someone else wants this.

*Newsletter: Taryen Shannon and Wendy Foley...should have a third person sign up. Alternating months.

***Charity Coordinator - open** - Shirley is stepping down after doing this for several years (7/8) has everything you need to move forward.

*Membership/Hospitality Phyllis currently holds this but will give up if someone else wants it.

*Facilities Coordinator - Pat McCollem has held this many years, will step down if someone else wants it.

*Web Master - Sarah Norris holds this unless someone else wants it

*Members at Large no one holds this, any member may attend any Board meeting

***Program Coordinator- one year- two positions opened.** Any information needed is readily available.

*Monthly raffle and birthday coordinator held by Sue Warchal

*Retreat Fun Committee - 2026 Sue, Janice, Sarah and Mary Ann

*Retreat Hotel Coordinator- Wendy Moore staying on.

- *Janice*





Celebration Of Life: Donna Jordan - Drop Diamonds!

I've watched Donna Jordan so many times, I was so saddened to hear of her passing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8dgi82-TGM>

- *submitted by Janice*

I found a couple of interesting websites that had lots of information to help you calculate yardage for quilts and other great information. Carol Thelen seems to be the instructor/ Youtuber.

Can you tell I always have Youtube on when I am quilting? Lol

Happy Quilting

<https://quiltnotes.com/> A quilt calculator to design your own quilt

<https://youtu.be/-jturpkNzWA>



- *submitted by Bev Ciaburri*



Skipped Stitches Troubleshooting Flow Chart

Step-by-step guide of what to do when you get skipped stitches on your sewing machine



[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)

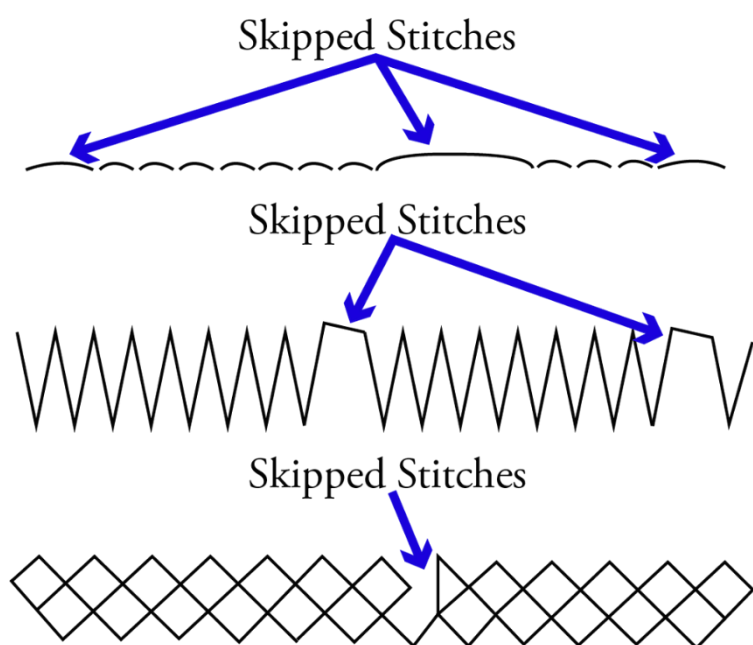
Greetings everybody,

Skipped stitches are among the most common issues sewists encounter with their sewing machines, and it's a topic I've covered extensively in previous articles. In this edition of **The Sewing Machine Newsletter**, I've distilled that knowledge into a clear, step-by-step troubleshooting guide designed as a simple flow chart.

Each step is numbered, and most steps link to previous articles I've written that cover the reason why that step exists in extensive detail. The idea is that if you encounter skipped stitches, then you would start at Step 1 and test the machine to see if Step 1 fixed the problem. If the problem is fixed, then mission accomplished. If not, then you would move sequentially through the other steps until your issue is resolved.

My goal is to empower you to troubleshoot effectively at home, potentially saving you a trip to the repair shop. I hope you find this guide both practical and helpful.

—Cale



Skipped Stitches Troubleshooting Flow Chart

1. Insert a fresh needle.

A bent needle— even one that is ever so slightly bent— can negatively affect the machine's needle-hook clearance and cause skipped stitches. Whenever I experience skipped stitches, the first thing I do is insert a new needle and see if that solves the problem



[Bent Needles & Skipped Stitches](#)

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)

JUNE 25, 2023

[Read full story](#)



[Needle Insertion](#)

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)

MARCH 27, 2024

[Read full story](#)

2. Make sure you are using the correct needle type for the fabric.

Stretch fabric requires a stretch needle, or else we risk skipped stitches. Meanwhile, thicker fabric requires a larger needle, because a small

needle can potentially have trouble penetrating thick fabric, leading to needle deflection and skipped stitches.



Everything You Need to Know About Sewing Machine Needles

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#) AND [DAN SCHOENBERG](#)*

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

[Read full story](#)

3. Make sure you are using quality thread.

Whenever someone brings in a machine and has experienced skipped stitches, I also make sure to test it with thread I trust to be good quality, such as Aurifil, Mettler, or Isacord. Poor quality thread may possess certain characteristics (such as undue stiffness or stickiness) that hinder the machine's ability to create a thread loop. If the thread loop is distorted due to these unwanted thread characteristics, then skipped stitches will likely result.



Poor Quality Thread vs High Quality Thread

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)*

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

[Read full story](#)

4. The Pull Test

A snag on the upper thread could cause skipped stitches. Perform the pull test and see if you can feel the upper thread snagging as you pull on it when the presser foot is raised (presser foot raised = zero tension condition).



The Pull Test

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)

MAY 15, 2024

[Read full story](#)

- A common area where the thread snags is the [spool cap](#). A spool cap that is too big or too small can cause thread snags. Make sure your spool cap is slightly larger than the plastic end of the thread spool.
- Another reason for thread snags is burrs on the machine cover.
-
- And, yet another reasons for thread snags is [compacted lint](#) along the upper thread path. If you are feeling a snag, but don't see any burrs in the cover and are using the correct spool cap, then raise the presser foot and use compressed air to blow any and all obstructions out from the upper thread path.

5. Check for other obstructions along the thread path

Whether it be the upper thread source (needle thread) or bobbin thread source, the thread must flow freely from the thread source as your sewing machine sews and makes stitches. There are many different points along the thread path where obstructions can occur and prevent

the thread from flowing freely. Sometimes, these obstructions can cause skipped stitches.

- Needle strikes on the bobbin case may cause skipped stitches.
- [Needle strikes on the needle plate](#) hole may also cause skipped stitches.
- [A loosely wound bobbin](#) can also cause skipped stitches.
- [Adhesive on the needle, hook, or bobbin](#) case can also cause skipped stitches.



[The Importance of an Unobstructed Thread Path](#)

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)*

JAN 20

[Read full story](#)

6. Check Needle-Hook Timing

Remove the bobbin case and needle plate so that you can get a clear view of hook point as it passes behind the needle. Turn the machine's hand wheel so that the needle is in the bottommost position. Continue to slowly turn the hand wheel until the hook passes behind the needle. The hook should pass just above the needle eye when the needle has risen a couple of millimeters above its bottommost position. If it is passing underneath the needle eye, or way above the needle eye, then your sewing machine is probably out of time and needs to be taken to a trained technician.



Sewing Machine Timing

[CALE SCHOENBERG*](#)

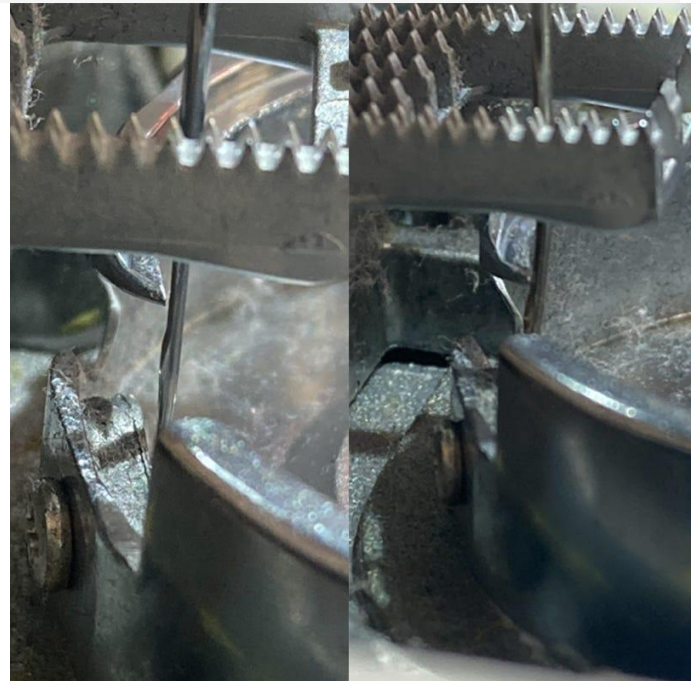
JAN 27

[Read full story](#)

7. Check Needle Hook Clearance

When the hook passes behind the needle, the hook must pass within a specific distance range from the back of the needle in order to catch the thread loop. You don't want the hook to be so close that it touches the needle, but you don't want it to be so far away that it passes behind the thread loop instead of passing through.

Photo on the left shows proper needle-hook clearance— see the little bit of daylight between the needle and hook? That daylight is necessary and a sign of proper clearance. Meanwhile, there is no daylight in the photo on the right—the needle and hook are touching each other, which may cause skipped stitches, as well as other issues.



Needle-hook clearance is a critical setting that can cause skipped stitches if too tight or excessive in distance. If you are getting skipped stitches because needle-hook clearance is truly out of whack, a trained sewing machine technician should be able to fix the problem for you.



The Sewing Machine Technician's Checklist

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#)

JUNE 9, 2024

[Read full story](#)

Thank you for reading!

Sewing machines are intricate tools, and there are indeed additional reasons for skipped stitches beyond what's covered here. However, I've addressed the most common issues sewists typically face, and I sincerely believe this guide will be a valuable resource for anyone troubleshooting skipped stitches.

Thank you,

—Cale

- Submitted by Wendy M.



Upcoming quilt shows

New England Quilt Expo- Manchester, NH—April 10-12,2025
Doubletree by Hilton, Manchester, NH

Quilted Jewels quilt and Craft show in Carver, MA—April 12, 2025
United Parish of Carver, 115 Main St, Carver, MA

Hands Across the Valley quilt guild show- Amherst, MA—May 3 -4. 2025
Hampshire College (893 West Street/Route 116, Amherst, MA).

Bayberry Quilters of Cape Cod quilt show- July 30-August 1
Cape Cod Regional Technical High School 351 Pleasant Lake Ave. Harwich MA



Pictures throughout this newsletter are from our March meeting workshop.

- Submitted by Taryen



New England Quilt Museum

Click [here](#) to discover the upcoming exhibitions and events at the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA:



A different way to use fabric and thread.



Exhibition dates: March 1 – August 31, 2025

There is a continuum where beauty and function blend and diverge in the hands of the contemporary artist. Even when traditional materials such as thread, fabric, wood, reed, and paper are used, these artists combine skill, imagination, and vision to meld their materials into compelling and beautiful art, which resonates in today's world.

Art Evolved: Intertwined is a collaboration between Studio Art Quilt Associates and the National Basketry Organization. After a rigorous jurying process, 59 artists from both organizations were invited to participate in this conversation, which highlights the enduring connections between quilting and basketry, as well as the relationship between beauty and functionality. The exhibition will travel to the Yellowstone Art Museum (MT), Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum (WA), Lauren Rogers Museum of Art (MS), and Fuller Craft Museum.

Photo caption: Elaine Longtemps, *Flint*, 2017. Photo credit: Paul Takeuchi.

- Submitted by Wendy F.